

# SumpThink

August 2000: Issue #270

## Club Night

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2000

*Topic:* **Annual General Meeting** *Photographic Competition* Wine and Cheese

*Speaker:* Club Committee

*Venue:* Small Gallery, Turnbull House **7.30pm**

*Contact:* Mike Wood 477 0909

Prior to the meeting club members meet informally in the Backbencher from 6.30pm for a meal and chat.

## SRT Night

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2000

WCG **SRT night** at *Hangdog Climbing Cavern*, 453 Hutt Road. See you from 6:30pm to 9pm. Committee members will be there to provide the opportunity to climb, practise SRT, and find out about caving gear. Bring your friends and family along too.

**Please book in** to ensure a safe ratio of instructors, and to allow for sufficient rigging.

*Contact* Bob W 04 298 9281 [bw@caving.wellington.net.nz](mailto:bw@caving.wellington.net.nz). Discounts for entry and for any gear you purchase.

Food is available just down the road at Station village, or Pizza delivery.

Bring your gear if you have it, including helmet, electric light, harness, SRT equipment, etc.

## Good Grief

Another year has rolled by. Its time to put some fresh blood on the committee. Please turn up and support your committee at this year's Annual General Meeting.

*Simon*

[sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz](mailto:sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz)

## Events Calendar 2000

Wed 9 Aug 7:30pm	WCG	<i>Annual General Meeting</i> <b>Photo Competition</b> Wine and Cheese <i>Contact Mike Wood 477 0909</i>	<a href="mailto:president@caving.wellington.net.nz">president@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
18 to 20 Aug 2000	WCG	<b>Ski</b> Ruapehu <i>Contact Jennifer R 475 8122</i>	<a href="mailto:jr@caving.wellington.net.nz">jr@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
Wed 30 Aug 2000	WCG	<b>SRT at Hangdog</b> 6:30pm to 9pm <i>Contact Bob W 04 298 9281</i>	<b>Book in</b> <i>Bring friends, family and gear</i> <a href="mailto:bw@caving.wellington.net.nz">bw@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
Wed 7 Sep 2000	WCG	<i>Committee Meeting</i> <i>Contact Barry C 527 7332</i>	<a href="mailto:secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz">secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
Wed 14 Sep 7:30pm	WCG	<i>Club Meeting</i> <i>Contact</i>	
Wed 27 Sep 2000	WCG	<b>SRT at Hangdog</b> 6:30pm to 9pm <i>Contact Bob W 04 298 9281</i>	<b>Book in</b> <i>Bring friends, family and gear</i> <a href="mailto:bw@caving.wellington.net.nz">bw@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
30 Sep 1 Oct	NZSS	North Island Sarex	<i>Contact Barry Were</i> <a href="mailto:barryw@trax.co.nz">barryw@trax.co.nz</a>
Wed 11 Oct 7:30pm	WCG	<i>Club Meeting</i> <i>Contact</i>	
21 to 22 Oct	NZSS	NZSS AGM Waitomo	<i>Contact Robbie McBirney</i> Hosted by ASG
Wed 25 Oct 2000	WCG	<b>SRT at Hangdog</b> 6:30pm to 9pm <i>Contact Bob W 04 298 9281</i>	<b>Book in</b> <i>Bring friends, family and gear</i> <a href="mailto:bw@caving.wellington.net.nz">bw@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
November	NZSS	<b>Raft Race</b> <i>Contact Norm Fleming</i>	Waitomo

## Contributions to SumpThink

I **urgently** need articles for SumpThink. Please **email** ([sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz](mailto:sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz)) contributions to the editor, or put them on a floppy disk or piece of paper and snail mail them (2 High Street, Petone).

**Deadline** for SumpThink is the **last Wednesday** of the month.

SumpThink is **published** monthly from February to December.

## WCG on the Internet

**caving.wellington.net.nz**

Wellington Caving Group Home Page

**caving.wellington.net.nz/sumpthink**

SumpThink

**www.egroups.com/lists/wgtncaving**

Email group, for the latest in event information

or [wgtncaving-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:wgtncaving-subscribe@egroups.com)

Subscribe on the web or by email

**www.egroups.com/lists/sumpthink**

Email delivery of **SumpThink**

or [sumpthink-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:sumpthink-subscribe@egroups.com)

Subscribe on the web or by email

**caving.wellington.net.nz/nzcaving**

Index to NZ Caving sites and publications.

Added club library information.

## Contact WCG 2000

President	Michael Wood	477 0909	<a href="mailto:president@caving.wellington.net.nz">president@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
Secretary	Bob Wellington	04 298 9281	<a href="mailto:secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz">secretary@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
Treasurer	Rob Sowerbutts	04 298 8584	
Membership Convenor	Rob Sowerbutts	04 298 8584	
Committee	Mike Coburn	04 299 1628	
	Mark Phillips	235 8173	
	Barry Cullen	527 7332	<a href="mailto:bc@caving.wellington.net.nz">bc@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
	Rachel Miles	801 9979	<a href="mailto:rm@caving.wellington.net.nz">rm@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
Gear	Bob, Rob, or Mike C.		<a href="mailto:gear@caving.wellington.net.nz">gear@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>
SumpThink Editor	Simon Davis	938 1956	<a href="mailto:sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz">sumpthink@caving.wellington.net.nz</a>

## For Sale

**Calcium Carbide.** At Club Meetings, or from the Treasurer. Coffee or Milo tin quantity to club members and approved non members. The club has just purchased a new drum, so prices have increased.

**Varta AA alkaline batteries.** Superb value. Contact Bob W to make your purchases.

## Sell and Swap

SumpThink carries **Buy, Sell, and Swap notices** from members. Please send to the editor.

## WCG Library

The club library has had to be moved from Bob and Prue's garage due to their upcoming O.E., by default it has ended up in my garage, so I decided to investigate and catalogue this taonga. Some of the publications are exciting and informative, some are dated and informative and some are just informative while others are of interest only to nerdy bibliophiles and have already led to many undone chores around my place. All are available on loan to paid up WCG members, I enclose the following catalogue which is in no particular order.

TITLE	COMMENTS
The Darkness Beckons	Welsh author, highly recommended
The Great Caving Adventure	" "
The Moas Of New Zealand and Australia.	
The Tabon Caves	Archaeological dig in the Philippines
N.Z. Cave Atlas, South Island	Peter Crossley
More Years Under The Earth	Nobby Casteret
Time Life and Man	The fossil record
Karst	J.N. Jennings
Mt. Etna and the Caves	a Mt. Etna in Australia
Mount Etna Caves	"
The Arrow Book of Climbing	1966
Guide lines for Cave and Karst Protection	the World Union 1997
Land Search and Rescue	F.E. Gallas 1977
Cave Entrance Plants	Waitomo Caves Museum
Cave Minerals	Waitomo Caves Museum
Introduction to Cave Surveying	BCRA cave studies No. 2
Introduction to Cave Photography	BCRA cave studies No. 4
The Caves of Texas	NSS Bulletin No. 10
Inside Earth No. 4	The Speleo Press, Texas
21st. Anniversary Chronicle NZSS	1970
The Underground Atlas	A Gazetteer of the Worlds Caves
Draft Maniapoto Karst Plan	DOC
Paparoa National park	NFAC
Caving International Nos.1 2 3 4 5	

Also, complete copies of all ( almost all ) NZSS Bulletins  
SumpThinks and  
Tomo Times.

*Mike C*

# July Club Meeting

## Kayaking

The WCG caving group meeting of 12 July.

Chris and Al, along with a couple of friends, recently spent six weeks on the other side of the world on a kayaking tour. They were kind enough to come along and show us some of the slides they had taken.

The trip started in London where they hired a small Vauxhall and loaded it up with four people, 5 kayaks, and all their other gear. Always looking forwards (they couldn't see out the back window) they made their way south to Corsica, free camping along the way.

Corsica has two characteristic scenes: the beaches favoured by the tourists, and the steep heavily wooded inland areas that the kayakers were headed for. One particularly interesting scenic shot was of an old (centuries rather than decades) university town perched on the top of a rocky crag.

The streams they were paddling were small and steep flowing around and over large boulders. Unfortunately, they managed to arrive at the end of the usual six week season, and after realising that the best of the paddling was over, decided to head back to France. As the tourist season was yet to begin, they managed to take over a camping ground, making themselves very much at home. In the couple of weeks since they passed through on the way south, the snow had retreated a long way up the mountains. Of course the snow melt meant that the rivers were very cold. However, they enjoyed themselves (well, most of the time anyway) and we saw some spectacular photographs.

To finish off we were shown a few slides of a trip they took through South America a year or so ago. Conditions here were quite different to those we had seen in Europe. The weather was tropical, and the rivers much larger. Downpours on a number of occasions changed a navigable, blue river into a raging brown torrent. On one occasion, after waiting beside a swollen river for a number of hours, hoping it would recede enough to enable them to continue, they eventually had to force their way through the jungle back to the road. Fortunately the local taxi driver (running a Toyota four-wheel-drive) had come looking for them. They were very relieved to see him. It was the very interesting show, with a number of statements sticking in my mind:

"After swimming for an uncomfortably long period of time"-having spent some time underwater at the bottom of a drop.

"It wasn't the best decision we had ever made"-after surviving a particularly nasty stretch of river.

"Camera? Safety? Camera? Safety?..."-trying to decide whether to photograph a paddler come out of a difficult situation, or to help them get out of it (the camera won).

**Mike W**

## Friday Night Dateline 27 May 2000

Well after UCol on Friday I finished at 5pm, shot home on my bike and then packed some spare clothes and a little food!

Aaron came and picked me up with Adam, Wayne, and Richard. Then I had to get into the small back seat of the car! We headed out over and through the gorge, Stopped at Woodville and got some tea, I had a fish burger and a 1liter of coke! We left after we had finished eating and headed to the turn off, about 10min from Pahiatua.

Once at the drive way to the cave, we geared up and headed for a big and long walk to the entrance to the cave, it is up a hill about rising over 200m, then we had to walk along the ridge, down into a galley, through a gate, down into a swamp and oops there it was the cave, (Crash Cave)

I was the guide so I went in first. The entrance is a 2m drop onto the first level, then we walked down a little bit and it dropped about 4m this time, then walked along another bit and then another 3m drop, and then into the freezing cold stream about 5c. Once through the cold pools, and the water had risen a bit since last time, we got out of the cold waster and what a rush going straight to the head. We headed down about 15min when I spotted the other part of the cave we had not gone to yet! I headed down it as it was kinda like a slide, going down at maybe 45 degrees, heaps of good holds to clamber onto, once at the bottom we could go 2 different ways. I went one way while Adam yelled out where I should go to see if we where we I thought we were, and there it was the formation that I thought was heaps bigger but I guess it was not as big as I thought it was! We carried on and headed down a bit more we meet, some air, I kinda freaked my self out heaps, as I heard something again, it might have been a possum or something. We headed back I had a look at the 4m climb could of done it but I could not be bothered and the others where not capable of doing it plus there was nothing down there to have a look at.

We headed back to the junction and then headed down the other part of the cave, some really nice formations and we reached the end, and could here a stream but as the map said it was under a large rock which we were on! We headed back to the junction and started to go towards the mud slide, about 8m of a slide and neat fun. oh yes I had changed the dumb batter about 3 times by now! I headed up this cool vertical squeeze and waited for the others as I though I had gone through some other passage so I sneaked up on them and asked them what they were doing? Funny then I went back and tried another kinda vertical squeeze it was fun, not as tough as the other as it was very vertical, and I got my leg stuck going up it as well. I waited about 5 min before they had come up, so we could go and do the rest of the cave but no hurry they were having fun. We then headed off to the awesome formation, which looks so spectacular. A small squeeze and then there it was the mud slide, once you get going its really hard to stop, then through a squeeze and then into a room, we got every one in there and then it was time to head out of the cave! Back through, well you know what we came through!

We exited at about 10:30pm and entered about 7:30pm so a good 3 hours in the cave was all good for me! Then we went back to the car, and headed to the hut so we could unpack our gear, and stoke the fire up, about 45min latter we decided to get ready to go and do the other cave.

Once at the road end about 10min from the hut, there was fog and like good luck trying to find the right gate. We stopped and Adam said here it is, so what did we do, get out and walked about 20m and I told him it was another cave, but he would have never listened. We turned around and said where is the car, well lets go this way! And there it was, we went back and forward about 3 times trying to find the gate. We found it as in fog and in dark it is completely difficult to find a cave about 400m from the road side. hehehe Any way We went into the cave, I almost fell into it we could not see that well!

Famous Five was the name, we took the gate off and headed into the cave. About 30m there was the first freezing water fall we had to walk under, then we were totally cold, and then the next one, it was so cold, you can not believe how cold it was! We got to a 3.5m climb up into a high squeeze which was fun, then into a 7m chimney but I was freaked this time. I was a little freaked, I had to talk my self into it as I could not let the people have not done much caving before see me freaking out so I did it! It was scary but the thing is to not look down, and just go for it.

Once done we had to go about another 50m and we were at the end of the cave were it sumps, and the worst thing happened Aaron's light would not work at all! arhhhhhh. We go out of the cave, had to give Aaron my light and then take it back while I was over the 7m chimney, and I was so scared I did not want to fall with out a helmet on if I did I would be history! bye bye!

Any way we headed out of the cave, and back to the hut. Stoked the fire up and then hit the sack after a bit to eat and by the time we found the cave it was 12:15am and exited at 3:15am, I was tired after that but it was Aaron's last cave trip before he headed back down south! Slept like a log, I mean a brick! Had to get up early and go home at 7:30 and I fell asleep in the car. Got home through every thing on the ground like usual, took a shower, and that was nice to feel hot water again. Went and tided my stuff up into the washing machine, and then by that time it was about 12:50, I went and lay on my bed listening to some really cool music, electric bagpipes, (HEVIA) and fell asleep for about 3 and a 1/2 hours and woke up felling jet lagged! And now I am here writing the trip report how fun fun fun!

## ***Brendon Gilchrist***

### **Trouty**

Well Trouty is now the big 40 and guess what he can have a "toy girl" now.

And did he get one, well yes, her name is "Murtle" and she is white a little plump and short and a tiny wee bit woolly! She doesn't say much though. When I meet her I had trouble understanding what she said but the gist of it was something like this, "You know I think I'm going to enjoy being with this man. I have had such a "hard" time over the years, waiting on the shelf, you know how it is, you wait and wait and wait. It's so nice to be "off the shelf" and out of the box, so to speak." I'm looking forward to being rounded up around the bed room, Oops sorry the bedroom, or was that the paddock. I couldn't get the last bit. What could that be about I wonder, oh well no doubt all will be revealed over time as these things are.

Happy birthday Mark and the club had a wonderful night. I hope Moonshine will be very impressed and line up to become new cave club members!

### ***Debs***

On the strength of this Debs is heading off to the USA and on the UK, getting the hell out of it for a holiday. Mike C has given her some contacts at the South Wales Cave Club to get some caving in.

### **Queen's Birthday at Mahoenui**

No trip report received

### **Mid Winter Swim**

No trip report received

Wellington Caving Group  
SumpThink Newsletter  
Return to: 2 High Street; Petone.

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